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been taken with the proof-reading with the result that very few typographical errors appear. The printing of the first eleven chapters (nearly) upon tinted paper in strong contrast to the white of the remaining pages, from no fault of the printer as we understand, is to be regretted. The critical eye in search of faults might notice too, upon many pages, traces of old and worn type. But as a whole, and especially as regards its exterior dress, the appearance of the volume is neat and pleasing, and leaves little to be desired.

A government report might be supposed to be the last place to which one would turn in search of matter to while away an idle hour, but our author contrives to introduce into his pages many a bit of pleasant philosophy and many a tale of birds and their doings that will prove to the appreciative reader anything else but dry reading. Like the skillful cook whose art is shown by his power to serve a juicy dish, be the meat never so tough and unsavory, so the author's skill as a writer is seen in his ability to dress up bird histories, however commonplace the subjects, in a style that is sure to please. For a choice example of his peculiar knack, let us refer the reader to his story of the familiar cat-bird, where the author appears to us in his happiest vein of humor.

But space forbids even mention of all the good things that are brought together within these covers. Let each of our readers who loves a good book send for a copy, and we predict that few indeed will turn its leaves without finding something which will appeal to his or her interest.—*H. W. H.*

JENSEN'S TURBELLARIAN WORMS OF NORWAY.¹—Our marine zoölogists will be interested in the appearance of this valuable work on the marine flat-worms of the Norwegian coast. A number of new forms are described in considerable detail, with excellent figures, while the descriptive portion is preceded by quite full anatomical details. The work is done in the careful, conscientious manner characteristic of Scandinavian zoölogists. The descriptions are both in Latin and Norwegian, so that the work is accessible to students in general.

MCCOOK'S NATURAL HISTORY OF THE AGRICULTURAL ANT OF TEXAS.²—For a number of years Rev. Mr. McCook, has been a diligent student of the habits of the ants of his own State, Pennsylvania, his papers appearing in the Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences. The present volume is devoted to a single

¹ *Turbellaria ad Litora Norwegiæ occidentalia. Turbellarier ved Norges Vestkyst.* Af OLAF S. JENSEN, Conservator ved Bergens Museum. Mid 8 lithograferede tavler. Bergen, 1878. Folio, pp. 98.

² *The Natural History of the Agricultural Ant of Texas.* A Monograph of the Habits, Architecture and Structure of *Pogonomyrmex barbatus*. By HENRY CHRISTOPHER MCCOOK. Author's edition. Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Anno Domini, 1879. 8vo, pp. 310. 24 lithographic plates.

species, the agricultural ant of Texas, to which the attention of naturalists had been drawn by the late Dr. Lincecum, of Texas. This ant is preëminent, as the author states, for its admirable social organization, its skill as a mason in excavating its vast and well ordered system of underground chambers; its extensive surface operations in clearing out circular court-yards to its nests, and road-ways to its foraging grounds; the striking variations in its surface architecture from cones to flat disks; its highly developed stinging powers, which place it among the most formidable of the stinging ants; while it is especially noteworthy from its harvesting habits. The results of the energy, skill and patience evinced in the study of this ant are most successful. There is an honesty of purpose, thoroughness in detail and general accuracy of statement, together with fullness of illustration in the cuts and the twenty-four lithographic plates, which will give a lasting value to the book as a biography of one of the most interesting of all animals.

We wish the author had given us his impressions as to the nature of the instinctive and rational acts of the ant, but we have here a store-house of generally well observed facts, which will afford material for the future student of animal psychology. The drawings are mostly by the author, and add greatly to the interest and attractiveness of the book.

WATERTON'S WANDERINGS IN SOUTH AMERICA.¹—This quaint, at times somewhat affected narrative, whatever its drawbacks when judged by the standard works of scientific travelers, has always had a hold upon general readers. It is the journal of an English country gentleman possessed with a strong love of nature, a decided leaning to ornithology, a genius for taxidermy, and withal a patient and generally accurate observer. There are scattered through the volume sketches of animal nature which give it permanent value. While Waterton's adventures with the Cayman are credible, despite his contemporary critics, we have to thank him for the attractive and truthful pictures of tropical scenery and life. His sketches of the ant bear, the armadillo, the vampire, the ai or three-toed sloth, of certain birds, of the natives among whom he traveled, and his researches on wourali poison are all as valuable as they are entertaining. In his description of the sloth, Waterton makes a contribution to the subject of protective resemblance. "I observed," he writes, "when he was climbing he never used his arms both together, but first one and then the other, and so on alternately. There is a singularity in

¹ *Wanderings in South America, the north-west of the United States and the Antilles, in the years 1812, 1816, 1820 and 1824.* With original instructions for the perfect preservation of birds, etc., for cabinets of natural history. By CHARLES WATERTON, Esq. New edition, edited, with biographical introduction and explanatory index, by the Rev. J. G. WOOD. With one hundred illustrations. London, Macmillan & Co., 1878. 8vo, pp. 520. \$7.50.